

MARVEL

#26

**BARBER
HENRICHON**

DOCTOR STRANGE





STEPHEN STRANGE was a preeminent surgeon until a car accident damaged the nerves in his hands. His ego drove him to scour the globe for a miracle cure, but instead he found a mysterious wizard called the **ANCIENT ONE** who taught him magic and that there are things in this world bigger than himself. These lessons led Stephen to become the Sorcerer Supreme, Earth's first defense against all manner of magical threats. His patients call him...

DOCTOR STRANGE

While the state of magic in our realm recovers from near-total annihilation, anything mystical is hard to come by. Stephen Strange and his new apprentice, Zelma Stanton, are hunting for remnants of power. But any magic that has thus far escaped detection won't be easy to find...

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DOCTOR STRANGE CREATED BY **STAN LEE AND STEVE DITKO**

EONS AGO.

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

IT'S FOLLOWING!
I CAN HEAR ITS
HEARTBEAT!

OF COURSE
IT'S FOLLOWING.
WE INTRUDED ON
ITS DOMAIN AND IT
WANTS US OUT.



THE DESIRES
OF THIS ENTITY
ARE MORE PRIMAL.
IT WANTS
RETRIBUTION.

AND I'M
AFRAID I DON'T
HAVE IT IN ME TO
DENY THE MONSTER
ITS DUE.

DON'T
TALK LIKE THAT,
VARKATH.



BOTH OF
YOU, SHUT UP
AND MOVE. I NEED
THAT TORCHLIGHT
IF I DON'T INTEND
TO DIE HERE.

WHICH I
DO NOT.

GO WITHOUT
ME. I'M DEAD
WEIGHT.

YOU'RE
ONE OF US.
NOW MOVE. WE'VE
BEEN THROUGH
WORSE THAN THIS.

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

AND WE'LL
BE THROUGH
WORSE
AGAIN.

NOW,
HURRY. WE'RE
NEARLY TO
THE--



WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB



--SURFACE.

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB



WUB-WUUB

WUB-WUUB

WUB-WUUB

NO...

...VARKATH IS RIGHT. THIS IS HOPELESS.



THE TORCH!

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB



IT WAS DEAD ALREADY, MAARIKA.

THE BEAST'S HEARTBEAT GROWS CLOSER.

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB



THIS ISN'T RETRIBUTION...THIS WAS A TRAP, AND WE FELL INTO IT.

THEN WE SHALL FACE OUR FATE AS WE FACED ALL OUR DAYS...

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

...TOGETHER.

**TODAY.
NEAR THE ABANDONED
76TH ST. SUBWAY STATION,
QUEENS.**

AND NOW
WE'RE GOING
THERE?

INDEED WE
ARE, ZELMA--THERE
COULD BE VALUABLE
MYSTICAL ARTIFACTS.
TODAY, MORE THAN EVER,
THOSE ARE A **SCARCE**
RESOURCE.

ANYWAY--THE
APPRENTICE
ISN'T MEANT TO
QUESTION THE
**SORCERER
SUPREME.**

THIS IS AN
OLD SUBWAY LINE,
NOT ANCIENT *HYRULE*
OR WHATEVER. EVEN IF
YOUR STORY IS TRUE, I
DON'T GET WHAT WE'RE
DOING *HERE*.

NOT
LISTENING, FOR
ONE THING.

WHAT?

I TOLD YOU EARLIER,
NOTIONS OF
LOCATION AND
DISTANCE ARE NOT
AS **CUT-AND-DRIED**
AS THE MUNDANE
WORLD MIGHT LEAD
YOU TO BELIEVE.

IN THE
TIME *BEFORE* TIME,
MANY PLACES EXISTED IN
MULTIPLE POINTS ON
THIS PLANE. ONLY WITH
THE SO-CALLED **REASON**
OF LATER AGES WERE THEY
FORCED TO CHOOSE A
PERMANENT VENUE.

I THOUGHT
YOU'D SAY
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

PARDON?

I SAID,
YOU'RE SURE
FULL OF WISDOM,
DOCTOR STRANGE.
HOW MUCH FARTHER
ARE WE GOING? I
HEAR THERE'S MOLE
PEOPLE.

YOU
HAVE NO
IDEA.

OH,
CRAP.

I GUESS
SOMETIMES
I **DON'T**.



SOMEBODY BUILT AN ANCIENT TEMPLE UNDER QUEENS?

AS I SAID-- SOMEONE BUILT IT SOMEWHERE, AND EVENTUALLY THAT SOMEWHERE WOUND UP BEING--

UNDER QUEENS.



EXACTLY.



SMELLS LIKE...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.

BREATH FROM EONS AGO. FROM A REALITY THAT IS BARELY THIS ONE.

KIMCHI AND TENNIS BALLS. THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING OF.

THIS IS SUPER WEIRD. I MEAN, EVERYTHING IS, AND I'M USED TO IT, BUT THIS SHOULDN'T BE HANGING OUT UNDER THE CITY.

YOU SURE IT'S ABANDONED?



I'VE BEEN AROUND TOO LONG-- SEEN AND DONE FAR, FAR TOO MUCH--TO BE SURE OF ANYTHING.

GREAT.



LOOKS LIKE THOSE ANCIENT SORCERERS OF YOURS WANTED TO LEAVE PRETTY BAD.

HM. I'M AFRAID THEY MAY HAVE HAD THE RIGHT IDEA.



YOU HEAR THAT?

YES, I DO. BE READY.

WUB-WUB WUB-WUB



WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB





WHAT ARE YOU?!

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB



THEY'RE MONSTERS, DOC!



GYAH!

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE HERE TO TALK.



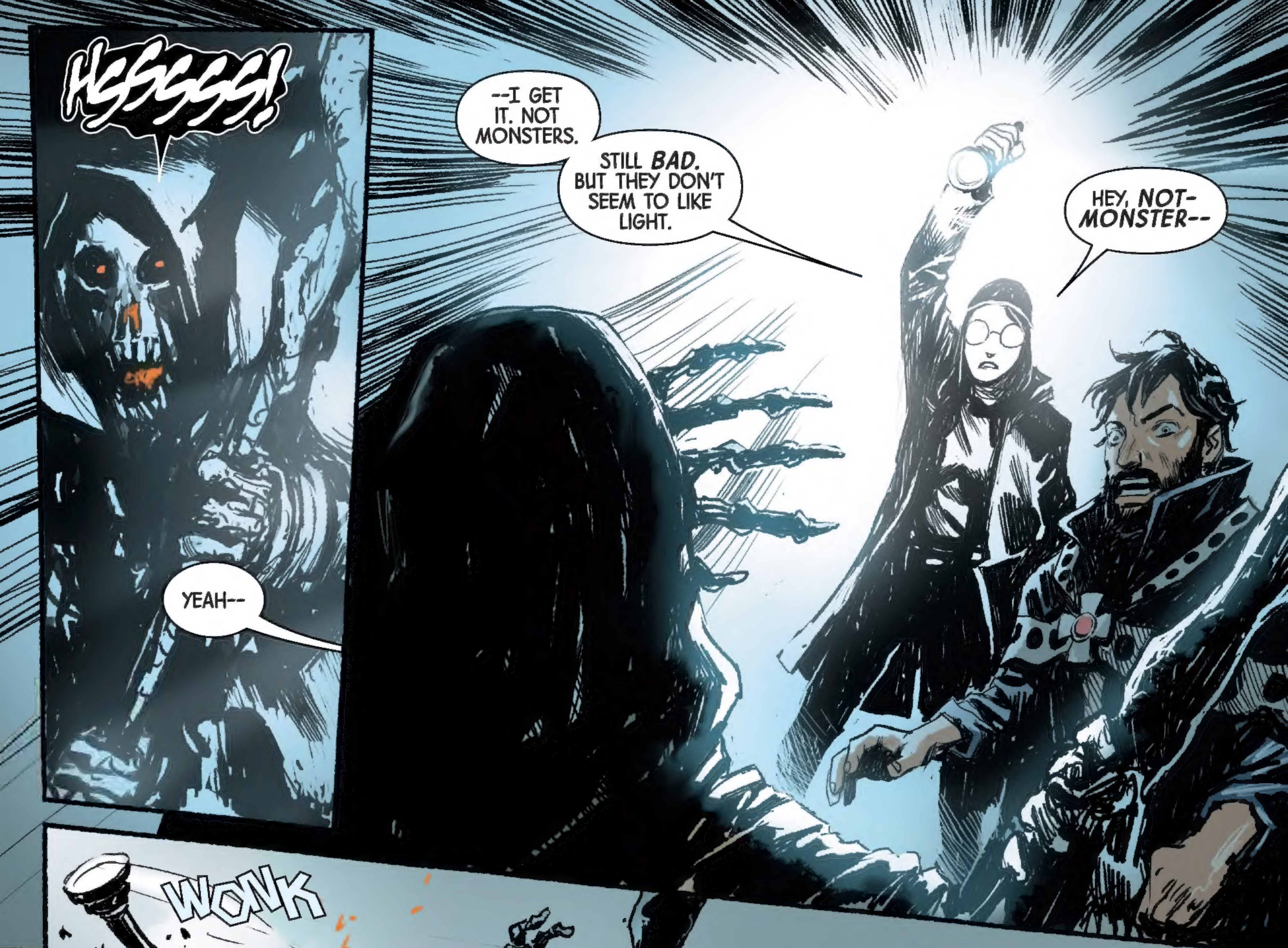
ZELMA-- UNF--THIS IS A-- TEACHABLE MOMENT--

--HRF--

--LOOK AT THEIR CLOTHES-- HFFF--THEIR WEAPONS--



--THESE ARE THE SAME SORCERERS WHO--



HSSSSS!

--I GET
IT. NOT
MONSTERS.

STILL *BAD*.
BUT THEY DON'T
SEEM TO LIKE
LIGHT.

HEY, NOT-
MONSTER--

YEAH--



WONK

--CATCH!



MOVE!

YOU DON'T
THINK THE
FLASHLIGHT
WILL STOP
THEM?



FWWOOGHH

I'LL TAKE
THAT FIRE
BREATH
AS A NO.



SO THEY WENT **CRAZY** AFTER, WHAT, A FEW **THOUSAND YEARS** IN THE DARK?

I'VE SEEN IT **HAPPEN**. BUT THEY LOOK...A LITTLE **ROUGH**.

THEY LOOK LIKE **BURNING CORPSES**.



WHICH POINTS TO **POSSESSION**, OR SOME SORT OF **SOUL CORRUPTION**. THE **THAUMATURGE TRIVIUM** WERE LEGENDS...

LEGENDS?

...IN CERTAIN CIRCLES. **SMALL CIRCLES**, MOSTLY IN **TIBET**. BUT I WAS IMPRESSED, ANYWAY. THEY'RE SAID TO BE **INCORRUPTIBLE**.



WELL, GOOD THING WE HAVE **YOU**.

I KNOW YOU'RE **KIDDING**, BUT YOU DON'T SURVIVE AS **SORCERER SUPREME** AS LONG AS I HAVE WITHOUT OCCASIONALLY BENDING **RIGHT TOWARD WRONG**.

FOR A **GREATER GOOD**, THAT IS.



OH, **REALLY?** IS THAT A **LESSON** YOU SHOULD BE TEACHING YOUR **APPRENTICE?**

BEING **PURE OF HEART** TENDS TO GET YOU LOCKED IN A **TOMB** FOR, AS YOU SAID, A FEW **THOUSAND YEARS**.

WUB-WUUB
WUB-WUUB



NOW... **SHHH**.

WUB-WUUB
WUB-WUUB
WUB-WUUB
WUB-WUUB
WUB-WUUB



THEY'RE
GOING DEEPER.
WE CAN MAKE IT
OUTSIDE.



THEY'RE
TOYING WITH
US, ZELMA.

DRAWING US
OUT. BUT TO
WHAT END?

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB



WHAT ARE
YOU--

HEY!

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB



RAAAGH!



STAY BACK,
ZELMA--WATCH
AND LEARN!

FIRST LESSON OF THE DAY--YOU'RE NEVER DISARMED IF YOUR ENEMY HAS A WEAPON.

FRAHH!

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

UK!

SECOND-- IF SOMEBODY CAN SHOOT FIRE, STOP THEM FIRST.

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WU...

HHHHHH

POSSESSION, THEN. BUT BY WHAT...?

YAHHH!

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

LESSON
THREE--PAY
ATTENTION.

EMITTET--UH--
VIRIBUS ECIAT--
AH--

--DAMN!

THIS ISN'T
EASY!

IF IT
WERE, VICTOR
VON DOOM WOULD
BE TEACHING
YOU.

DRAW THAT
ONE INTO THE
ALCOVE,
ZELMA!

AND
WATCH YOUR
HEAD!

WATCH
MY--

--AW--

--TUTOR
CLYPEUM--



--EDO
BALTHAKK!

NAUURGH!

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB--

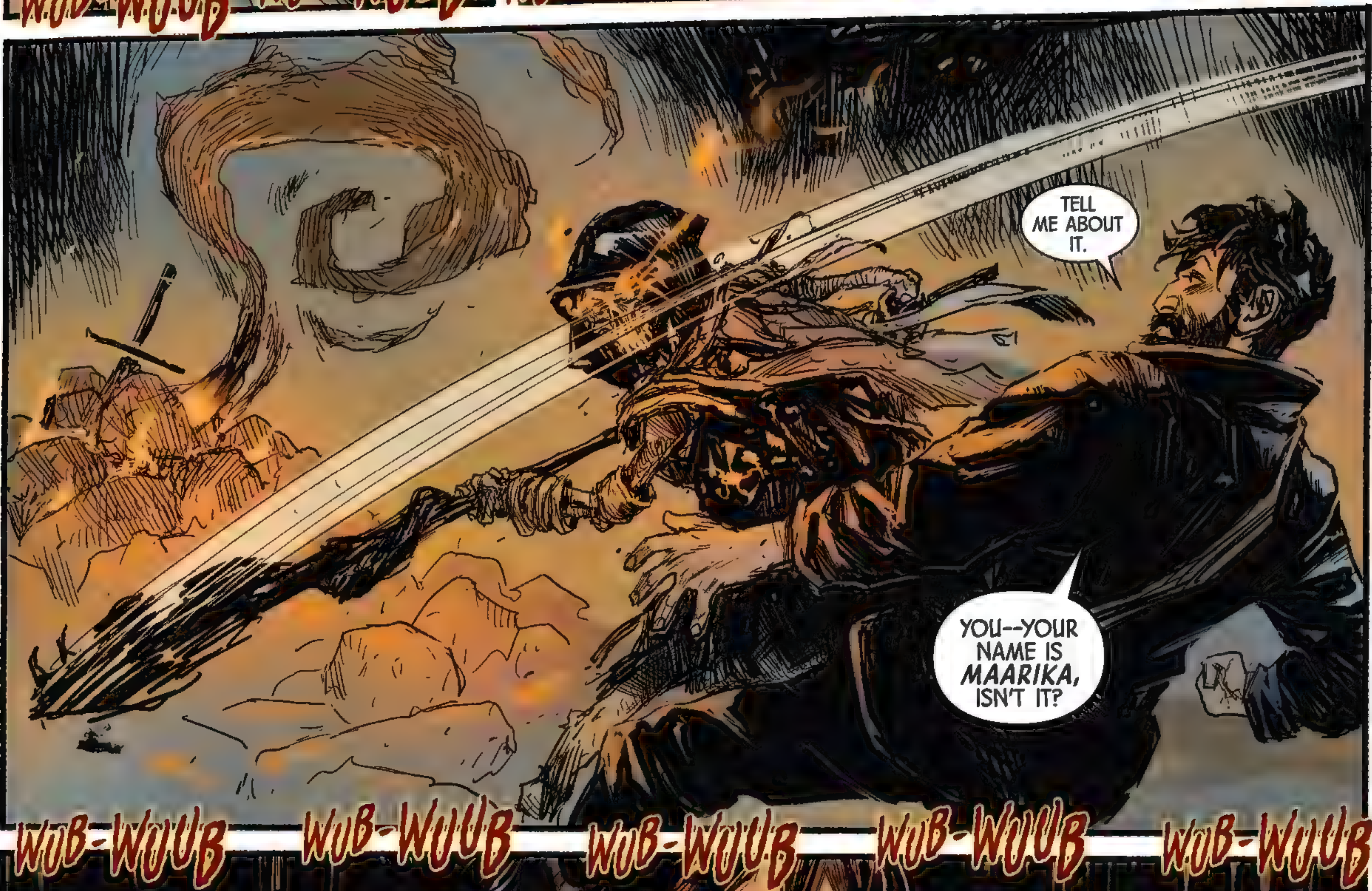


HRUUHHH!

SH UKK



STRANGE--SQUISHED
BY ROCKS IS NO
BETTER THAN HACKED
APART BY ANCIENT
WIZARDS!



TELL
ME ABOUT
IT.

YOU--YOUR
NAME IS
MAARIKA,
ISN'T IT?

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

IF THERE'S
ANY OF YOUR
INCORRUPTIBLE
SOUL LEFT IN
THERE--

--KNOW
THIS IS
YOUR FINAL
CHANCE.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
FIGHT.



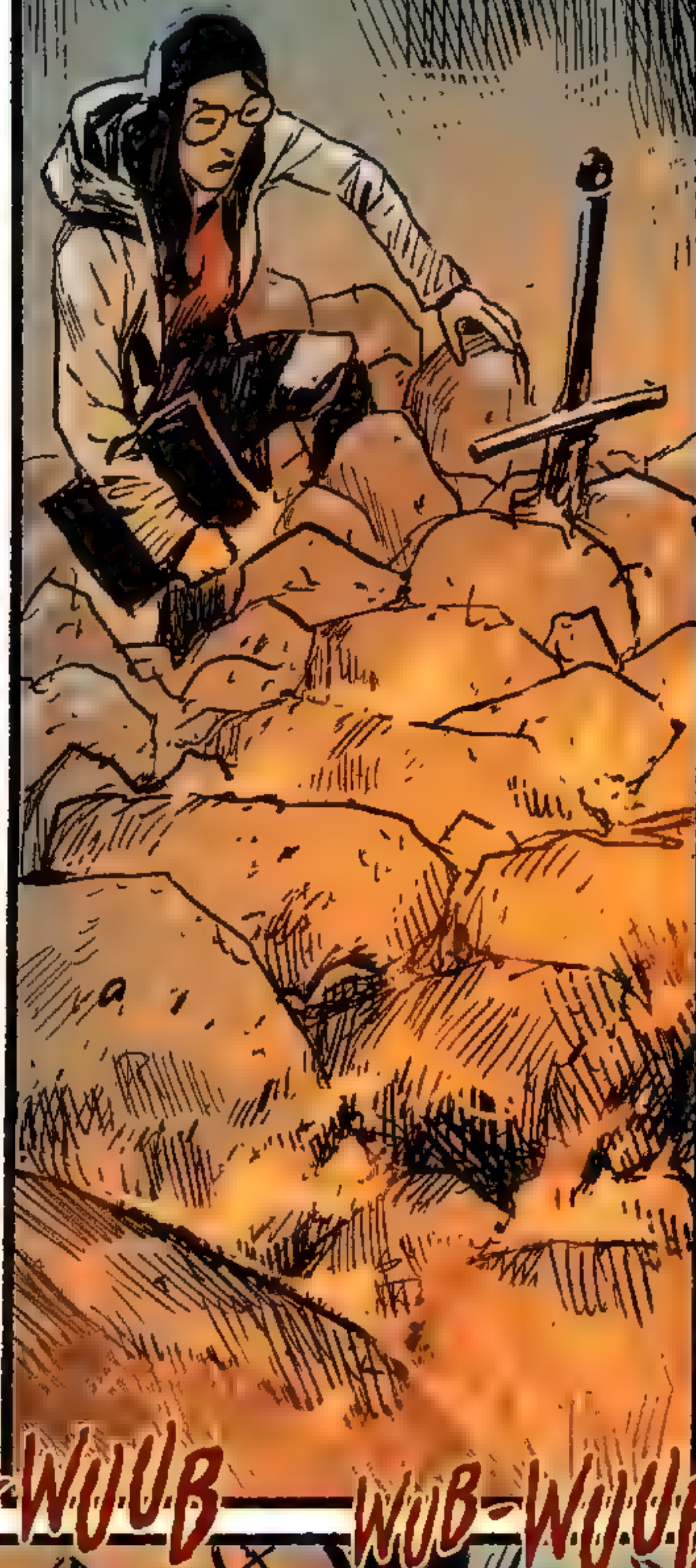


OOKAY.

ZELMA--
GRAB THE
SWORD!

IS THIS
ANOTHER
LESSON?

I NEED A
MINUTE.



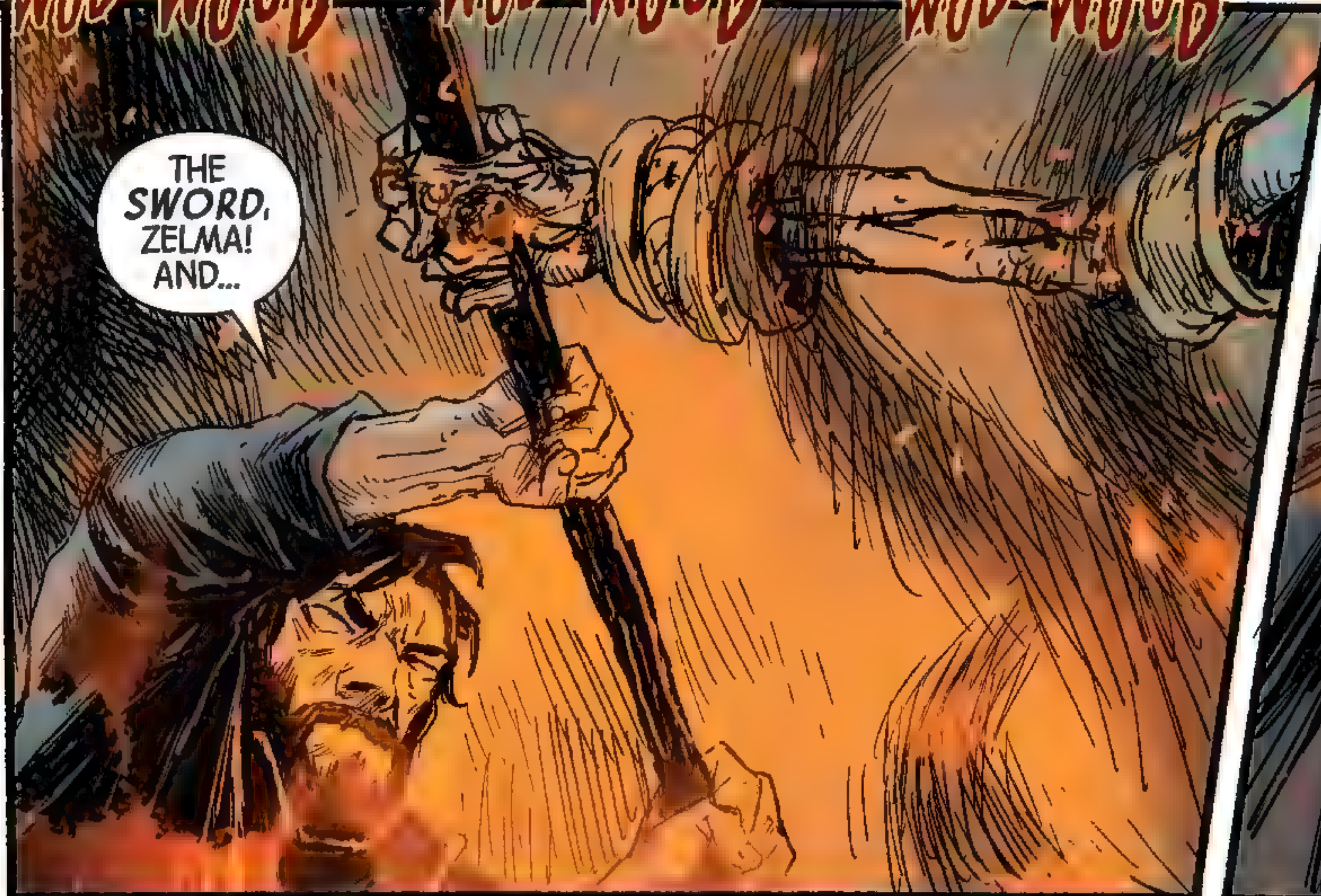
WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

SURAGH!

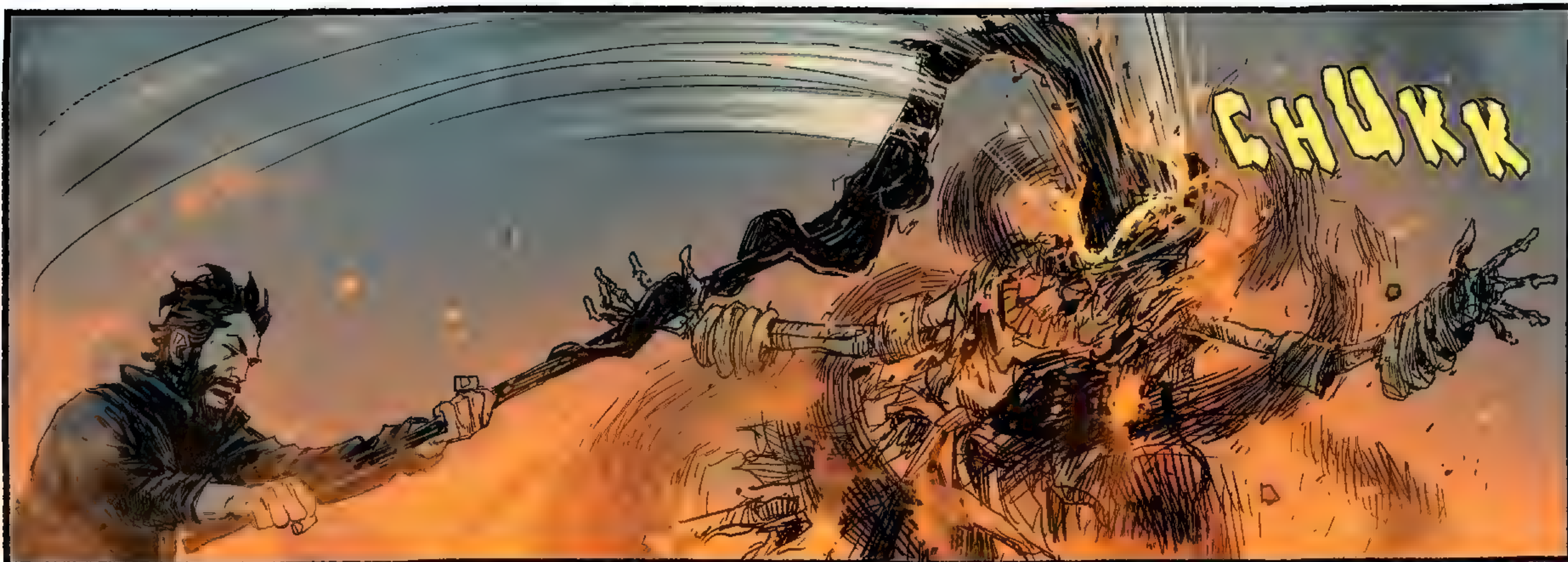
UNNK!

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

THE
SWORD,
ZELMA!
AND...



...SORRY.



OH, MAN.
THAT WAS
CLOSE.

AND I'M PRETTY SURE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
SAY "SORRY."

SHE WAS
TRYING TO
KILL US.



WUB-WUUB

WUB-WUUB

WUB-WUUB

I WASN'T
APOLOGIZING
TO HER.

NOW, I
MEAN IT--
GET THE
SWORD...

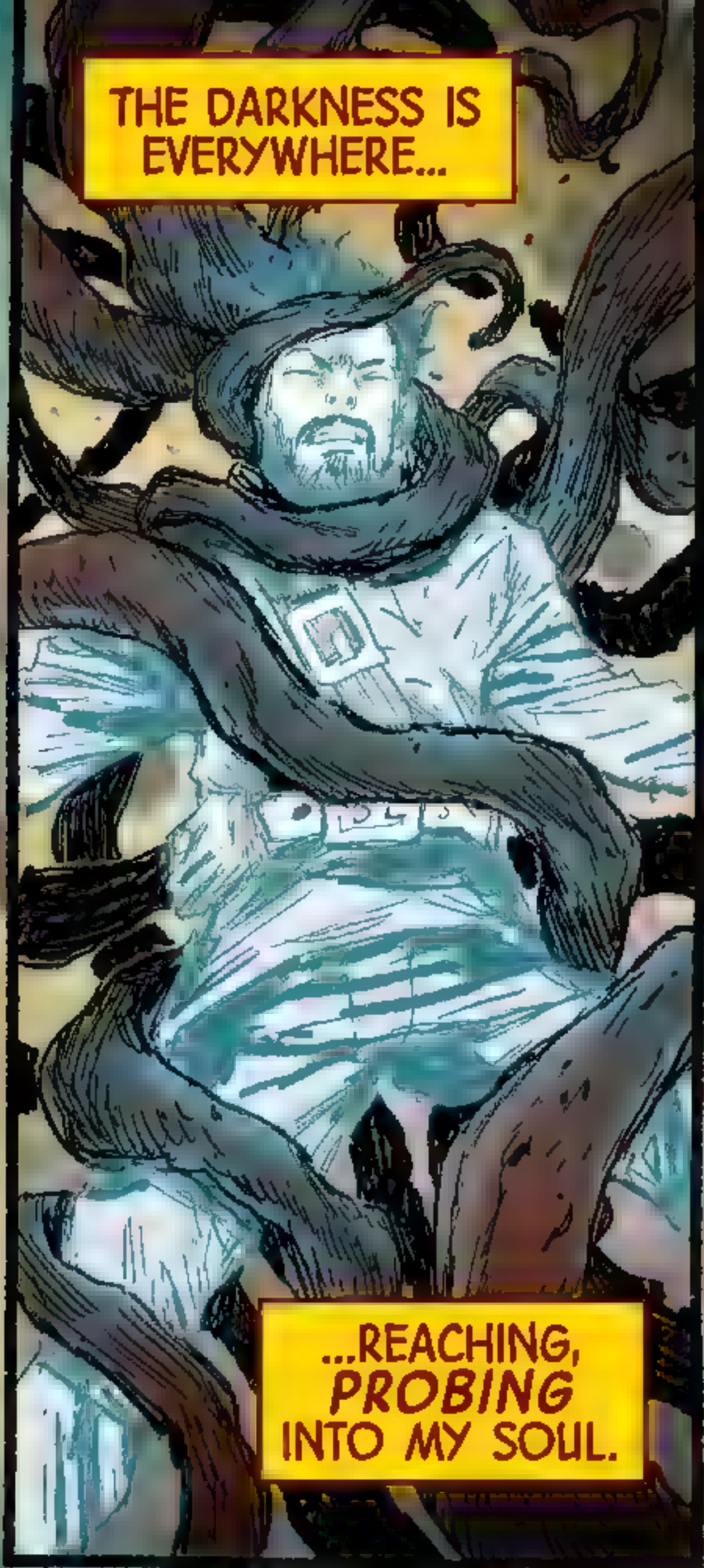


...I'M NOT
EXACTLY SURE
WHAT'S GOING TO
HAPPEN NEXT. JUST
TRY AND STAY
ALIVE THROUGH
IT!

YOU'RE
NOT--
WHAT?!

WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE,
DOC?





THE DARKNESS IS EVERYWHERE...

...REACHING, PROBING INTO MY SOUL.



OKAY, DOC. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

THINK THIS THROUGH. TEACH ME A LESSON.

WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

A TOUCH LIKE FURIOUS ICE.

BURNING WITH A BOREAL RAGE.



WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

COME ON, DOC!

YOU MADE IT SOUND LIKE I WAS YOUR FAVORITE STUDENT.



CORRODING ALL IT TOUCHES.

AN ANCIENT ENTITY FROM A TIME BEFORE TIME.

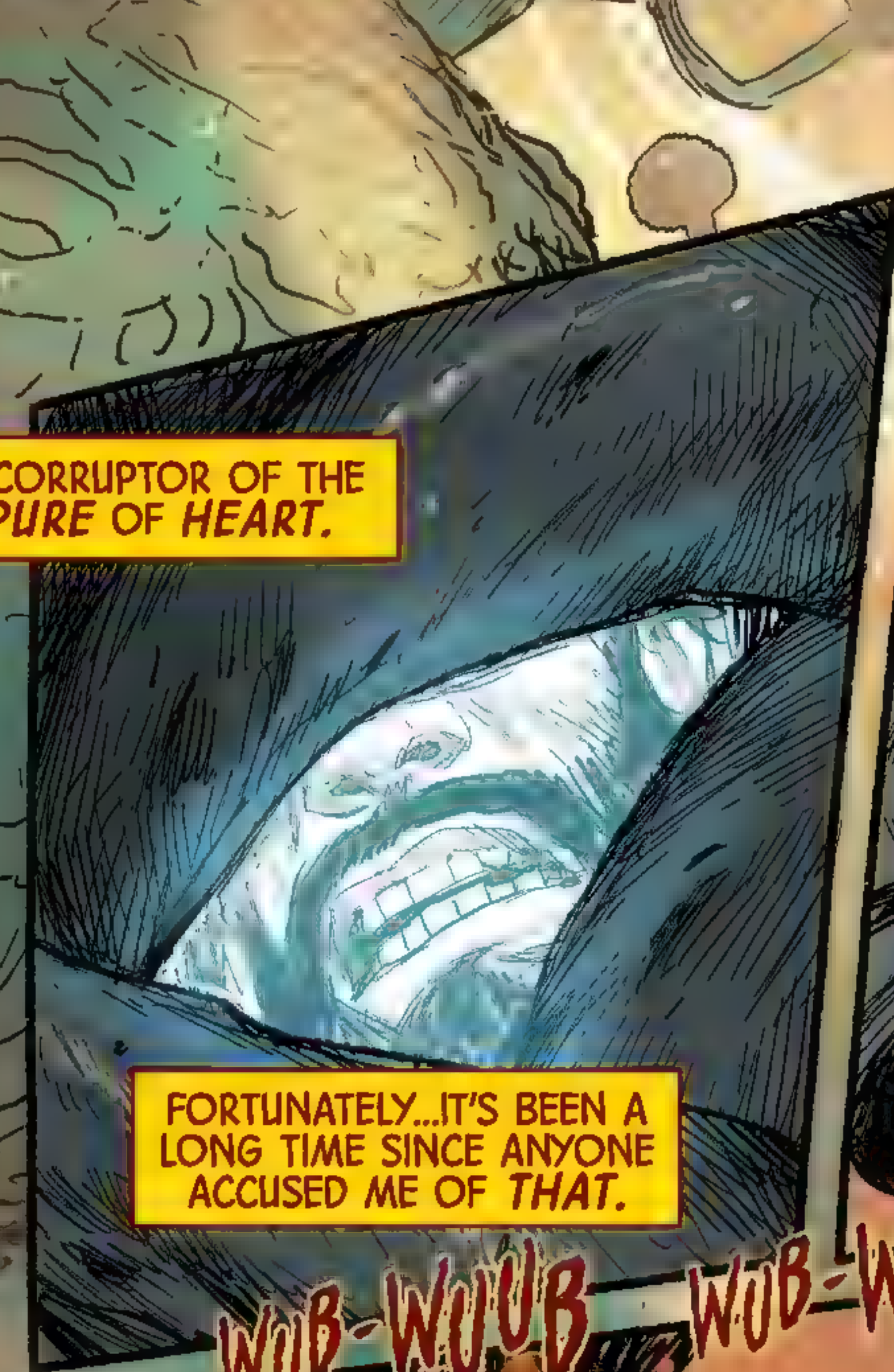
WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

OKAY, FINE. YOU WANNA PLAY?



IT DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF ME.

WHAT TO DO WITH A SOUL THAT HAS SEEN ALL I HAVE SEEN.



A CORRUPTOR OF THE PURE OF HEART.

FORTUNATELY...IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE ACCUSED ME OF THAT.



WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB WUB-WUUB

STAY BACK, DOC--

--I'LL DO IT AGAIN.



BUT I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT IS.

IT'S NOT CONTAMINATING ME...



I'VE GOT MEAN OLDER BROTHERS WHO TAUGHT ME A THING OR TWO!



...I'VE
CONTAMINATED
IT.



DOC?



THIS
BETTER
NOT BE A
TRICK.

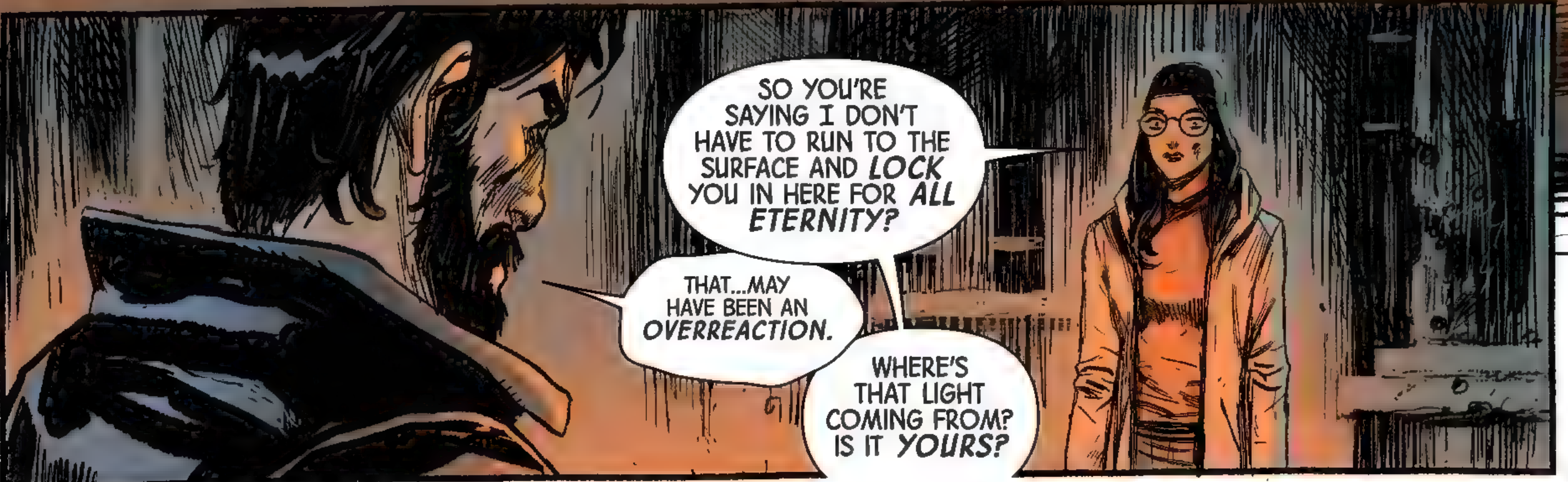
I HAVE A
SWORD AND
EVERYTHING. I
CAN FINISH YOU
OFF RIGHT
NOW.



PLEASE,
ZELMA...

...DON'T.

I'M ME
AGAIN.



SO YOU'RE
SAYING I DON'T
HAVE TO RUN TO THE
SURFACE AND LOCK
YOU IN HERE FOR ALL
ETERNITY?

THAT...MAY
HAVE BEEN AN
OVERREACTION.

WHERE'S
THAT LIGHT
COMING FROM?
IS IT YOURS?





NOT
ME.

THREE
INCORRUPTIBLE
WARRIORS, OR
THEIR SOULS,
ANYWAY.

FINALLY
FREE.



STILL DEAD,
BUT NOW THEY
CAN FIND SOME
SORT OF
PEACE.

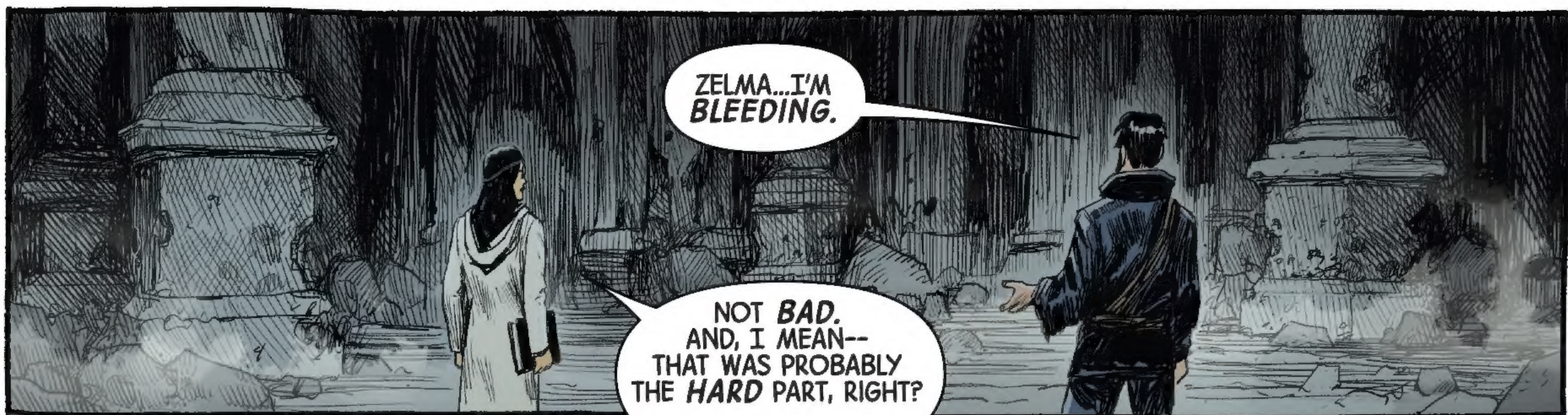
THEY'RE
KIND OF
AWESOME.



YOU,
TOO.

NOW LET'S
GET OUT
HERE.

YOU GOT
SOMEWHERE
TO BE?



ZELMA...I'M BLEEDING.

NOT **BAD**.
AND, I MEAN--
THAT WAS PROBABLY
THE **HARD** PART, RIGHT?



YOUR **AX**
IS STILL DOWN
THERE.

AND YOUR
CLOAK.

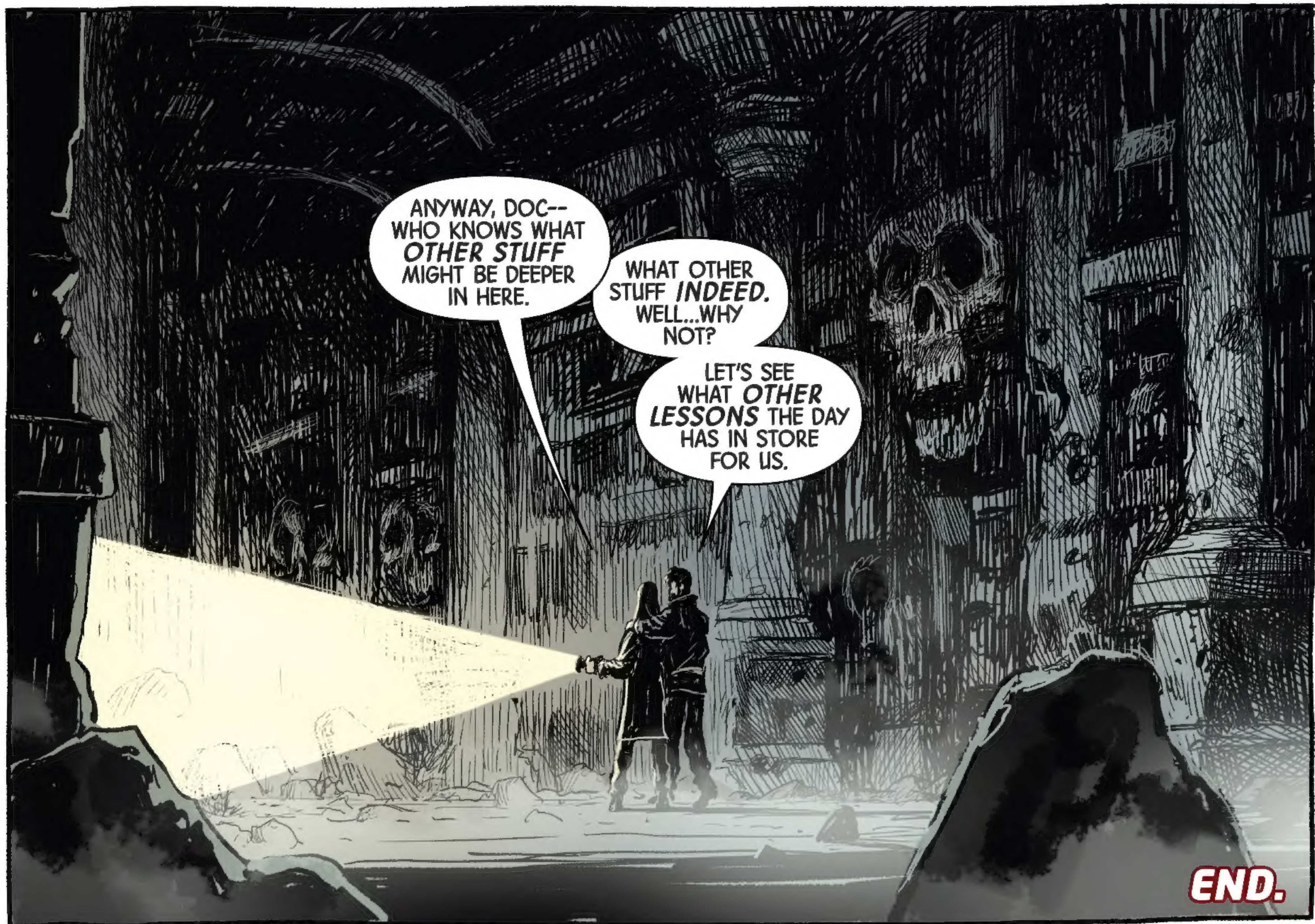
I'M
EXHAUSTED. I
HAD A--AN EVIL THING
POKING AT MY **SOUL**.



WHEN
DO YOU
NOT?

WE CAN'T
GO THROUGH **ALL**
THAT AND WIND UP
HAVING **LESS** THAN
WE CAME IN
WITH.

NEVER BEEN
TO **LAS VEGAS**,
HAVE YOU?



ANYWAY, DOC--
WHO KNOWS WHAT
OTHER STUFF
MIGHT BE DEEPER
IN HERE.

WHAT OTHER
STUFF **INDEED**.
WELL...WHY
NOT?

LET'S SEE
WHAT **OTHER**
LESSONS THE DAY
HAS IN STORE
FOR US.

END.

NEXT ISSUE: GOD OF MAGIC



Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM or 135 W 50th St, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10020 (Please mark "OKAY TO PRINT")

